

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor the life and accomplishments of Arjia Rinpoche.

STOOPS

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor the life and
2 accomplishments of Arjia Rinpoche.

3
4 *Whereas, Arjia Rinpoche, the 8th Agya Hotogtu*
5 *(Lobsang Tubten Jigme Gyatso), is one of the most prominent*
6 *Buddhist teachers in the world, and is the only Tibetan high*
7 *lama of Mongolian descent;*

8 *Whereas, Arjia was recognized by the 10th Panchen*
9 *Lama as the 20th Arijia Danpei Gyaltzen at the age of two,*
10 *meaning he is the reincarnation of Lama Tsong Khapa's*
11 *father, Lumbum Ghe, and the throne holder of the Kumbum*
12 *Monastery in China;*

13 *Whereas, Arjia has trained with many prominent*
14 *Buddhist teachers, including the 14th Dalai Lama, the 10th*
15 *Lanchen Lama, and Gyayak Rinpoche. He studied the*
16 *subjects of Buddhist philosophy, sutra and tantra teachings,*
17 *and Buddhist art, language, and architectural design;*

18 *Whereas, After being forced to leave his monastery*
19 *during the Cultural Revolution in Chinese controlled Tibet,*
20 *Arjia showed his dedication by continuing to practice*



1 *Buddhism and study with his tutors in secret;*

2 *Whereas, During the Cultural Revolution, Arjia's spirit*
 3 *was not broken, even when required to work in a forced*
 4 *Labor Camp for 16 years;*

5 *Whereas, Following the end of the Cultural Revolution,*
 6 *returned to the Kumbum Monastery and reestablished*
 7 *monastic life and traditional studies. The monastery is one of*
 8 *the six largest monasteries of the Gelugpa school of Tibetan*
 9 *Buddhism, and was once home to 3,600 monks;*

10 *Whereas, Arjia has launched several projects in Tibet,*
 11 *including the Red Cross Organization in Kumbum, the*
 12 *Disaster Relief Project for local villages, a clinic for*
 13 *villagers that is run by monks of the Tibetan Medical*
 14 *Institute, and a school for local village children;*

15 *Whereas, Arjia left Tibet for the United States in 1998*
 16 *due to the strained political climate in Tibet. He founded the*
 17 *Buddhist Center for Compassion and Wisdom in Mill Valley,*
 18 *California, and was appointed by the 14th Dalai Lama as the*
 19 *Director of the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center*
 20 *(TMBCC) in Bloomington, Indiana;*

21 *Whereas, The TMBCC is a 108 acre non-profit*
 22 *organization comprised of the Kumbum Chamtse Ling*
 23 *Monastery, a Cultural Building, 2 traditional Tibetan Stupas,*
 24 *4 Retreat Cottages, a Teaching Pavillion, and 2 private*
 25 *residences. Their mission is to foster, preserve, and educate*
 26 *about Tibetan and Mongolian cultures in the United States,*
 27 *host cultural exchanges between Tibetans inside and outside*
 28 *of Eastern Tibet, follow the example of the renowned*
 29 *Kumbum Monastery in Tibet, and promote interfaith*
 30 *harmony;*

31 *Whereas, Arjia built a three-dimensional Kalachakra*
 32 *Mandala, which was presented to the Dalai Lama, and was*



1 *later donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington*
2 *D.C.; and*

3 *Whereas, Arjia authored a novel about his memoirs*
4 *entitled Surviving the Dragon: Therefore,*

5 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
6 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

7 SECTION 1. The Indiana Senate honors the life and
8 accomplishments of Arjia Rinpoche.

9 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
10 transmit copies of this resolution to Arjia Rinpoche and the Tibetan
11 Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center in Bloomington, Indiana.

